

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4176
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12750

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, EEWT, UR, SW, US

SUBJ: SOVIET ATC CONTRACT

1. M E L E OF FAA AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE USED OCCASION OF RECEPTION IN HONOR OF U.S. DELEGATION TO JOINT COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION TO DISCUSS PENDING ATC CONTRACT WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION A.F. AKSENOV, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITIES IN MINISTRY INCLUDE ATC. AS HAVE BEEN OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS, AKSENOV WAS EVASIVE IN DISCUSSING SOVIET MOTIVES FOR CHOOSING STANSAAB SYSTEM OVER ARTS-III, AND ATTEMPTED PASS THIS OFF AS TECHNICAL ISSUE DENIED BY OPERATIONAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY. HE APPEARED IMPRESSED, HOWEVER, BY MIELE'S STATEMENT THAT, IN VIEW OF FAA AND OTHER U.S. SPECIALISTS, STANSAAB SYSTEM WOULD NOT WORK AND BY COMMATT'S SUGGESTION THAT ISSUANCE OF U.S. EXPORT LICENSE FOR ARTS-III SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SEEN AS INDICATION THAT WE WOULD APPROVE SALE OF INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF U.S.-EQUIPMENT AS HART OS STANSAAB SYSTEM. AKSENOV SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AGAIN. HE WAS NON-COMMITAL IN REPLY TO MIELE'S SUGGESTION THAT FAA SPECIALIST BASED IN BRUSSELS, WHO WAS QUITE FAMILAR WITH STANSAAB SYSTEM, VISIT MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS.

2. IN WHAT MAY BE RELATED DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCIAL OFFICE UNDERSTANDS THAT V.V. SUSHKO, FORMERLY CHIEF OF THE MAIN TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION, HAS BEEN
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TRANSFERRED TO MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY. MINISTRY OF CIVIL

AVIATION OFFICIAL (TYUKHIN) INDICATED THAT SUSHKO HAD BEEN FIRED, AND LOCAL SPERRY-UNIVAC REPS BELIEVE THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS IN SOME WAY CONNECTED WITH ATC CONTRACT.

3. DURING SEPTEMBER 4 RECEPTION FOR U.S. EXHIBITORS IN INTERORGTEKHN KA-75, COMMATT WAS TOLD BY ELEKTRONORGTEKHNIKA VICE PRESIDENT L.V. ARKHAROV THAT CONTRACT WITH STANSAAB HAD NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE THE ONE TO SIGN THE CONTRACT, ARKHAROV REPLIED "PLEASE DON'T RUB SALT IN OLD WOUNDS." (COMMENT: AMONG VARIOUS SOVIET OFFICIALS INVOLVED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANYONE WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION ON ATC CONTRACT. IF, AS SPERRY-UNIVAC CLAIMS, SOVIETS ARE PAYING HIGH PRICE FOR SYSTEM WHICH WON'T WORK, THIS EFFORT TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT SURPRISING. LOCAL SPERRY REP CLAIMS THAT ARKHAROV HAS BEEN TAGGED TO SIGN CONTRACT, AN HONOR WHICH HE SEEMS TO BE RESISTING. END COMMENT).
STOESSEL

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